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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION

B. ZUCKER, individually and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

V.

NIGHT TEETH, INC., a Louisiana Corporation, BENJAMIN R. PUGH, an individual, and DOE ONE through and including DOE TEN,

Defendants.

| Case No. 2:22-cv-07551

COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT [Class Action and Collective Action Complaint]

1. Failure to Provide Adequate Pay Stubs Cal. Labor Code (the “Code”) § 226(a)
2. Failure to Pay Minimum Wage or Overtime, Code § 510, 1194; Wage Order 12
3. Failure to Pay Minimum Wage or Overtime, FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*
4. Continuing Wages, Code § 201, 201.3, 202, 203
5. Failure to Provide Proper Meal Breaks, Code § 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order 12
6. Failure to Provide Rest Breaks, Code § 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order 12
7. Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Benjamin Zucker (“Plaintiff” or “Zucker”), on behalf of themself as an individual and in their representative capacity under the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), and under the California Labor Code (the “Code”) Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), and Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is a class action and FLSA collective action, seeking unpaid wages, damages, penalties and attorneys' fees and costs, all according to proof, against Defendants Night Teeth, Inc. a Louisiana Corporation ("NTI") and Benjamin Pugh ("Pugh") (collectively, "Defendants"). This action alleges that Defendants, *inter alia*, violated the FLSA as well as the California Labor Code and the California Business and Professions Code.

2. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff also brings this case individually and as a class action on behalf of similarly situated individuals who have been employed by Defendants as hourly, non-exempt workers in California (collectively referred to as “Aggrieved Employees”) at any time beginning four years prior to the filing of this action. The alleged violations include failure to make timely payment of earned wages, provide proper meal and rest breaks, pay overtime and minimum wages, and for sick pay and record keeping violations, wage statement violations, continuing wages, and unfair competition, among other claims. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), Plaintiff also brings this case individually and as an FLSA collective action on behalf of similarly situated individuals who have been employed by Defendants in California.

3. Venue as to Defendants is proper in this United States District Court for the Central District of California (the “District”) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District. Defendants maintain an office, transact business, have an agent, or are found in the County of Los Angeles and is within the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of service of process.

4. The unlawful acts alleged herein had a direct effect on and were committed within the State of California. This court has federal question and CAFA jurisdiction of this matter.

PARTIES AND SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

5. Plaintiff is an individual who during the time periods relevant to this Complaint, was a resident of the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Plaintiff worked for Defendants in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, working for Defendants as a member of a motion picture production crew. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of themselves, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*

6. Defendants Pugh and NTI are each persons conducting significant amounts of business within the Central District of California. Defendant Pugh is the President of NTI. NTI produced *Night Teeth*, a 2021 American vampire thriller film directed by Adam Randall from a screenplay by Brent Dillon. The film stars Jorge Lendeborg Jr., Debby Ryan, Lucy Fry, Raul Castillo, Sydney Sweeney, Megan Fox, and Alfie Allen. *Night Teeth* was released on October 20, 2021, by Netflix. NTI is a Louisiana Corporation. NTI is authorized to do and does business in California. NTI is a temporary services employer as defined by Cal. Lab. Code § 201.3, which statute provides, in part:

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Temporary services employer” means an employing unit that contracts with clients or customers to supply workers to perform services for the clients or customers and that performs all of the following functions:

(A) Negotiates with clients and customers for matters such as the time and place where the services are to be provided, the type of work, the working conditions, and the quality and price of the services.

- (B) Determines assignments or reassessments of workers, even if workers retain the right to refuse specific assignments.
- (C) Retains the authority to assign or reassign a worker to another client or customer when the worker is determined unacceptable by a specific client or customer.
- (D) Assigns or reassesses workers to perform services for clients or customers.
- (E) Sets the rate of pay of workers, whether or not through negotiation.
- (F) Pays workers from its own account or accounts.
- (G) Retains the right to hire and terminate workers.

Code § 201.3(a)(1)(A)-(G). As a temporary services employer, NTI contracts with clients or customers to supply workers to perform services. NTI meets the definition of a temporary services provider. It negotiates with its customers, the financier or financiers where NTI employees will perform work and the type of work that will be performed. NTI also negotiates the cost of these services with the customers. Plaintiff worked at NTI in Los Angeles, California, under NTI'S direction. Plaintiff was paid directly by NTI's agent for the work performed on customer sites. NTI retains the ability to assign or reassign its workers. NTI also had the authority to hire and terminate employees, and exercised that authority.

7. Defendants' conduct as described herein is intentional, resulting in part from devoting insufficient resources to the payroll accounting and related human resources and compliance functions.

8. The true names and/or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of defendants Does 1 to 10 inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff at this time, who therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of said defendants have been ascertained, Plaintiff will amend this complaint accordingly. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that each defendant

1 designated herein as a Doe is responsible, negligently, intentionally, contractually, or in
2 some other actionable manner, for the events and happenings hereinafter referred to, and
3 caused injuries and damages proximately thereby to Plaintiff as is hereinafter alleged,
4 either through Defendants' own wrongful conduct or through the conduct of their agents,
5 servants, employees, representatives, officers or attorneys, or in some other manner.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7 9. On or about October 7, 2020, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a
8 member of the crew producing a motion picture in or about Los Angeles, California.

9 10. Plaintiff contends that Defendants failed to provide them and other
10 Aggrieved Employees with adequate pay stubs. In this regard, section 226 of the
11 California Labor Code provides:

12 (a) Every employer shall, semimonthly or at the time of each payment of
13 wages, furnish each of his or her employees, either as a detachable part of the
14 check, draft, or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately when
15 wages are paid by personal check or cash, an itemized statement in writing
16 showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee,
17 except for any employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and
18 who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section
19 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, (3) the
20 number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the
21 employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all
22 deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and
23 shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period
24 for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
25 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the
26 employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period
27 and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the
28 employee and . . . if the employer is a temporary services employer as

1 defined in Section 201.3, the rate of pay and the total hours worked for each
2 temporary services assignment. The deductions made from payments of
3 wages shall be recorded in ink or other indelible form, properly dated,
4 showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement or a record of
5 the deductions shall be kept on file by the employer for at least three years at
6 the place of employment or at a central location within the State of
7 California.

8

9 (e) An employee suffering injury as a result of a knowing and intentional
10 failure by an employer to comply with subdivision (a) is entitled to recover
11 the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay
12 period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per
13 employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an
14 aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and is entitled to an
15 award of costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

16 Cal. Lab. Code § 226. For example, the stubs filed to record premium wages owing on
17 account of Defendants' failure to provide proper meal periods and rest breaks. Naranjo v.
18 Spectrum Security Services, Inc., 13 Cal. 5th 93 (2022).

19 11. On information and belief, Plaintiff contends that Defendants failed to
20 provide Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees with the data required by section 226(a) of the
21 California Labor Code. Defendants' failure to provide the correct information on wage
22 statements has caused confusion by making it impossible for Plaintiff to determine
23 whether or not they have been paid correctly, for example, with respect to accrued
24 premium wages owing for employer failure to provide proper meal periods and/or rest
25 breaks. Further, although Defendant NTI is a temporary service provider, the NTI wage
26 statements failed to provide the rate of pay and total hours worked for each temporary
27 services assignment.

1 12. At all times relevant herein, sections 226 (b), (c), and (f) of the Code further
2 provided:

3 (b) An employer that is required by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant to
4 this code to keep the information required by subdivision (a) shall afford current
5 and former employees the right to inspect or copy records pertaining to their
6 employment, upon reasonable request to the employer.

7 ...

8 (c) An employer who receives a written or oral request to inspect or copy records
9 pursuant to subdivision (b) pertaining to a current or former employee shall
10 comply with the request as soon as practicable, but no later than 21 calendar days
11 from the date of the request.

12 ...

13 (f) A failure by an employer to permit a current or former employee to inspect or
14 copy records within the time set forth in subdivision (c) entitles the current or
15 former employee or the Labor Commissioner to recover a seven-hundred-fifty-
16 dollar (\$750) penalty from the employer.

17 13. At all times relevant herein, section 432 of the California Labor Code
18 provided that: "If an employee or applicant signs any instrument relating to the obtaining
19 or holding of employment, he shall be given a copy of the instrument upon request." Cal.
20 Lab. Code § 432.

21 14. At all times relevant herein, section 1198.5 of the California Labor Code
22 provided in part:

23 (a) Every current and former employee, or his or her representative, has the right to
24 inspect and receive a copy of the personnel records that the employer maintains
25 relating to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the
26 employee.

27 (b) (1) The employer shall make the contents of those personnel records available
28 for inspection to the current or former employee, or his or her representative, at

1 reasonable intervals and at reasonable times, but not later than 30 calendar days
 2 from the date the employer receives a written request . . .

3 15. On, Plaintiff requested their employment records from Defendant NTI, all
 4 pursuant to sections 226(c), 432 and 1198.5.

5 16. On information and belief, Plaintiff contends that Defendants failed to
 6 provide Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees with payment of the required minimum wage.
 7 For instance, Plaintiff's wages were due to be paid him on or before Thursday, October
 8 15, 2020, but his paycheck was not even prepared until on or after November 5, 2020, and
 9 then was short, all giving rise to FLSA liquidated damages under Biggs.

10 17. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 204 of the California Labor
 11 Code provided, in relevant part:

12 All wages, other than those mentioned in Section 201, 202, 204.1, or 204.2,
 13 earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during
 14 each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the
 15 regular paydays. Labor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive,
 16 of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and the 26th day of
 17 the month during which the labor was performed, and labor performed
 18 between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be
 19 paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month.

20 Cal. Lab. Code § 204.

21 18. Similarly, at all times relevant hereto, the provisions of the Fair Labor
 22 Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, require the payment of at least
 23 minimum wage and overtime for hours worked over forty in a workweek. See 29 U.S.C.
 24 §§ 206 and 207. Defendant failed to pay all accrued minimum wages in a timely fashion.

25 19. Plaintiff was not provided proper meal and/or rest breaks as required by law.

26 20. At all times relevant hereto, section 226.7 of the California Labor Code
 27 provided:

28 (a) No employer shall require any employee to work during any meal or rest

1 period mandated by an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
2 Commission.

3 (b) If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period or rest period
4 in accordance with an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission,
5 the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the
6 employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal or
7 rest period is not provided.

8 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7.

9 21. Here, Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were not provided proper thirty-
10 minute meal breaks.

11 22. Defendants violated sections 226.7 and 512 of the California Labor Code and
12 IWC Wage Order 12 by failing to provide proper meal or rest periods. Accordingly,
13 Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to an additional hour of pay for each workday
14 Plaintiff were not properly provided proper meal or rest periods. See Cal. Lab. Code §
15 226.7(b).

16 23. Compensation for missed meal periods or rest breaks constitutes wages
17 within the meaning of section 200 *et seq.* of the California Labor Code.

18 24. To date, Defendant has failed to compensate Plaintiff and Aggrieved
19 Employees for all of their earned wages in accordance with the California Labor Code,
20 IWC Wage Order No. 12, and/or the FLSA. See Naranjo v. Spectrum Security Services,
21 Inc., 13 Cal. 5th 93 (2022).

22 25. Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and former employees for continuing wages
23 pursuant to sections 201.3 and/or 201.5 through 203 of the Labor Code.

24 26. Section 201 of the Labor Code states that, “[i]f an employer discharges an
25 employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
26 immediately.” Cal. Lab. Code § 201(a). Code §§201.3 and 201.5 require payment by the
27 next regular payday, in this case, by Thursday October 15, 2020. According to section
28 203 of the Labor Code, “[i]f an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or

1 reduction, . . . any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the
 2 employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid
 3 or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than
 4 30 days.” Id. § 203(a). Defendant did not pay all wages due and owing to Plaintiff within
 5 the statutorily required time period.

6 27. Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees were injured by such actions and are
 7 therefore entitled to seek the amounts as set forth in Labor Code section 226 subsections
 8 (e)–(f), and penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 558. Present section 558.1 of the
 9 California Labor Code in part provides:

10 (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer, who
 11 violates, or causes to be violated, any provision regulating minimum wages
 12 or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare
 13 Commission, or violates, or causes to be violated, Sections 203, 226, 226.7,
 14 1193.6, 1194, or 2802, may be held liable as the employer for such violation.
 15 (b) For purposes of this section, the term “other person acting on behalf of an
 16 employer” is limited to a natural person who is an owner, director, officer, or
 17 managing agent of the employer, and the term “managing agent” has the
 18 same meaning as in subdivision (b) of Section 3294 of the Civil Code.

19 28. At all times relevant hereto, sections 510, 1194, and 1198 of the California
 20 Labor Code required (1) the payment of at least the minimum wage, (2) the
 21 payment of wages equal to one-and-one-half times an employee’s regular rate of pay for
 22 all hours worked in excess of eight per day or forty per week, and (3) the payment of
 23 wages equal to double the employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess
 24 of twelve per day and for all hours worked in excess of eight on the seventh day of work
 25 in any one workweek. At all relevant times mentioned herein, California Labor Code
 26 section 1194 provided, in relevant part:

27 Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee
 28 receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime

1 compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil
2 action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or
3 overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees,
4 and costs of suit.

5 Cal. Lab. Code § 1194(a).

6 29. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 1198 of the California
7 Labor Code provided:

8 The maximum hours of work and the standard conditions of labor fixed by
9 the commission shall be the maximum hours of work and the standard
10 conditions of labor for employees. The employment of any employee for
11 longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor
12 prohibited by the order is unlawful.

13 Cal. Lab. Code § 1198. Section 1198 refers to “conditions of labor prohibited by the order
14 [of the IWC]” and therefore incorporates by reference the IWC Wage Order. To date,
15 Plaintiff has not been paid for all of the hours they worked for Defendants. By failing to
16 pay Plaintiff for all of their hours of work, Defendant violated section 1198 by employing
17 them “under conditions of labor prohibited by the order.” Cal. Lab. Code § 1198.

18 30. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 510 of the California Labor
19 Code provided, in relevant part:

20 Eight hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Any work in excess of eight
21 hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one
22 workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any
23 one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-
24 half times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of 12
25 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the
26 regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight
27 hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of
28 no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee. Nothing in this

1 section requires an employer to combine more than one rate of overtime
2 compensation in order to calculate the amount to be paid to an employee for
3 any hour of overtime work. The requirements of this section do not apply to
4 the payment of overtime compensation to an employee working pursuant to
5 any of the following: (1) An alternative workweek schedule adopted
6 pursuant to Section 511. (2) An alternative workweek schedule adopted
7 pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to Section 514.

8 Cal. Lab. Code § 510(a).

9 31. At all relevant times mentioned herein, section 1194 of the California Labor
10 Code provided, in relevant part:

11 Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee
12 receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime
13 compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil
14 action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or
15 overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's
16 fees, and costs of suit.

17 Id. § 1194(a).

18 32. With regard to the employment of Plaintiff as described above, the provisions
19 of subparagraphs (1) and (2) of section 510 of the California Labor Code were
20 inapplicable in that no alternative workweek schedule had been adopted.

21 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that Defendant's
22 labor practices and all other aspects of its operations, as well as the job duties of
23 Aggrieved Employees, are stringently controlled and monitored pursuant to uniform
24 standards established by Defendant that apply throughout the company and certainly
25 throughout California. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon allege, that
26 Defendant requires compliance with detailed standards for completing assigned tasks and
27 running its operations. As a result, Plaintiff and Defendant's Aggrieved Employees in
28 California have been subject to uniform policies with respect to the violations alleged

1 herein and cause Aggrieved Employees to be similarly situated regardless of location and
2 position.

3 34. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that Defendants uniformly applies
4 policies and procedures to all Aggrieved Employees with respect to the maintenance of
5 employment records. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful actions of
6 Defendant, as alleged herein above and below, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered
7 and continue to suffer damages.

8 35. ***Unfair Competition.*** Through the violations described in this Complaint,
9 Defendant has gained a decided advantage over competitors that abide by California's
10 laws relating to wage statements, timely payment of final wages, and minimum wage and
11 overtime laws. Defendant's unlawful practices constitute unfair competition. Section
12 17200 *et seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code prohibits such unfair
13 competition.

14 CLASS-ACTION ALLEGATIONS

15 36. Plaintiff brings the referenced causes of action below on a class-wide basis
16 pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Rule 23 provides:

17 (a) Prerequisites. One or more members of a class may sue or be sued as
18 representative parties on behalf of all members only if: (1) the class is so
19 numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (2) there are questions
20 of law or fact common to the class; (3) the claims or defenses of the
21 representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and
22 (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of
23 the class.

24 (b) Types of Class Actions. A class action may be maintained if Rule 23(a)
25 is satisfied and if: . . . (3) the court finds that the questions of law or fact
26 common to class members predominate over any questions affecting only
27 individual members, and that a class action is superior to other available
28 methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. Pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b)(3) of Rule 23, Plaintiff seeks to
 2 represent all individuals who, at any time since four years prior to the filing of this action
 3 to date, were or have been employed by Defendant in the State of California as a non-
 4 exempt, hourly worker. (Such persons are referred to hereafter as “Class Members,” and
 5 such period is referred to hereafter as the “Class Period”).

6 37. Defendant, as to Plaintiff and to each member of the Class, failed to pay at
 7 least minimum wage and/or overtime for all hours worked pursuant to the relevant
 8 minimum wage and overtime requirements. Accordingly, Plaintiff and each Class
 9 Member is entitled to payment of their unpaid minimum wage, liquidated damages
 10 thereon, unpaid overtime, and interest.

11 38. Defendant, as to Plaintiff and each Wage Statement Subclass Member, also
 12 failed to accurately provide the data required by section 226(a) of the California Labor
 13 Code and, accordingly, Defendant’s failure to provide such data entitles each Plaintiff and
 14 each Wage Statement Subclass Member to either actual damages or statutory liquidated
 15 damages, whichever is greater. As a Temporary Services Employer within the meaning of
 16 Labor Code section 201.3, Defendant is required to show on employee wage statements,
 17 “the rate of pay and the total hours worked for each temporary services assignment.” Cal.
 18 Lab. Code § 226(a)(9). The failure to provide Plaintiff and each Wage Statement Subclass
 19 Member with the required data, caused Plaintiff and each Wage Statement Subclass
 20 Member injury by depriving them of information to which they were legally entitled.
 21 Despite the requirements of the statute, it is not possible for the employee “from the wage
 22 statement alone” to ascertain “(i) The amount of the gross wages or net wages paid to the
 23 employee during the pay period or any of the other information required to be provided on
 24 the itemized wage statement pursuant to items (2) to (4), inclusive, (6), and (9) of
 25 subdivision (a).” Cal. Lab. Code §226(e)(2)(B).

26 39. Defendant’s failure to provide proper meal periods or rest breaks as required
 27 by sections 226.7 and 512 of the California Labor Code and the applicable Wage Order
 28 entitles Plaintiff and Class Members to payment of an additional hour of pay at the

1 employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday on which a proper meal period
2 and/or rest break was not provided, as well as liquidated statutory damages.

3 40. Defendant's failure to make payments within the time provided by sections
4 201.3 or 201.5 of the California Labor Code has been and is "willful" within the meaning
5 of section 203 of the California Labor Code and, accordingly, Plaintiff and each Former
6 Employee Subclass Member who quit or was discharged and was not paid in accordance
7 with the law is entitled to the continuing wages for which provision is made by section
8 203 of the California Labor Code.

9 41. The Members of the Class and Subclasses are sufficiently numerous in that
10 joinder of all such Members would be impracticable, however not so large as to make the
11 class unmanageable. Further, the disposition of the claims of the Class and Subclasses in
12 a class action will provide substantial benefits to both the parties and the Court.

13 42. Despite the size of the proposed Class, the Class Members are readily
14 ascertainable through an examination of the records that Defendant is required by law to
15 keep. Likewise, the dollar amount owed to each Class Member is readily ascertainable by
16 an examination of those same records.

17 43. The provisions of the California Labor Code upon which Plaintiff base their
18 claims are broadly remedial in nature. These laws and labor standards serve an important
19 public interest in establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California.
20 These laws and labor standards protect the average working employee from exploitation
21 by employers who may seek to take advantage of superior economic and bargaining
22 power in setting onerous terms and conditions on employment.

23 44. The nature of this action and the laws available to Plaintiff and Class
24 Members make the class-action format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure
25 to redress the wrongs alleged herein. Further, this case involves a large corporate
26 defendant and a large number of individual employees with many relatively small claims.
27 If each employee were required to file an individual lawsuit, Defendants would
28 necessarily gain an unconscionable advantage because it would be able to exploit and

1 overwhelm the limited resources of each individual plaintiff with its vastly superior legal
 2 and financial resources.

3 45. Requiring each Class Member to pursue an individual remedy would also
 4 discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees who would be disinclined to file
 5 an action against their former and/or current employer for real and justifiable fear of
 6 retaliation and permanent damage to their careers with respect to subsequent employment.

7 46. Moreover, the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members
 8 would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to
 9 individual Class Members against the Defendant.

10 47. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact
 11 involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact common to
 12 the Class predominate over questions that may impact individual Class Members. These
 13 common questions include but are not limited to, the following:

- 14 (a) Whether Defendants paid all accrued overtime;
- 15 (b) Whether Defendants failed to pay the proper minimum wage;
- 16 (c) Whether Defendants failed to provide employees with adequate paystubs in
 accordance with California Labor Code § 226(a);
- 17 (d) Whether Defendants failed to timely provide quitting or terminated employees
 their final wages;
- 18 (e) Whether Defendants provided with proper meal periods and rest breaks;
- 19 (f) Whether Defendants' conduct constituted an illegal, unfair, or deceptive
 business practice;
- 20 (g) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to statutory damages,
 restitution, and/or penalties.

21 48. Proof of a common business practice or factual pattern that Plaintiff
 22 experienced is representative of that experienced by the Class will establish the right of
 23 each Class Member to recover on the causes of action alleged.

24 49. Such a pattern, practice, and uniform administration of illegal corporate

1 policies with respect to employee compensation, as described herein, creates an
2 entitlement in common for Plaintiff and Class Members to recover in a civil action the
3 unpaid balance of the full amount of the compensation owing, including interest thereon,
4 reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit according to the mandate of the California
5 Labor Code section 218.5.

6 50. Furthermore, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled in common to
7 restitution and disgorgement of funds withheld improperly by Defendants. Accordingly,
8 Plaintiff on behalf of Class Members will seek the creation of a common fund made up of
9 the aforementioned damages.

10 51. Plaintiff asserts claims that are typical of those of the Class Members because
11 they were employed by Defendants in California, they were subjected to Defendants'
12 uniform policies and procedures, and they were similarly injured as a result of
13 Defendants' actions.

14 52. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
15 Class Members in that they have no disabling conflicts of interest that would be
16 antagonistic to other Class Members. Moreover, Plaintiff seeks relief that is not
17 antagonistic or adverse to the Class Members in that the infringement of their rights and
18 the damages that they suffered are typical of all other Class Members. Additionally,
19 Plaintiff has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in class-action
20 litigation.

21 53. Plaintiff and Class Members have all similarly suffered irreparable harm and
22 damages as a result of Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. This action will
23 provide substantial benefits to both the Class and the public because, absent this action,
24 Defendants' unlawful conduct will continue un-remedied and uncorrected.

25 **A. Numerosity**

26 54. The potential members of the Class as defined are so numerous that joinder
27 of all the members of either Class is impracticable. The number of Class Members is
28 great, but not so great as to make the class unmanageable. It, therefore, is impractical to

1 join each Class Member as a named plaintiff. Accordingly, utilization of a class action is
2 the most economically feasible means of determining the merits of this litigation.

3 55. Despite the size of the proposed Classes, the Class Members are readily
4 ascertainable through an examination of the records that Defendants are required by law to
5 keep. Likewise, the dollar amount owed to each Class Member is readily ascertainable by
6 an examination of those same records.

7 **B. Commonality**

8 56. There are questions of law and fact common to each Class that predominate
9 over any questions affecting only individual Class Members.

10 **C. Typicality**

11 57. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact
12 common to the Class Members.

13 58. The claims of the named Plaintiff is typical of the claims of each Class,
14 which claims all arise from the same general operative facts, namely, Defendants did not
15 compensate its employees as required by the Code and applicable Wage Order 12.
16 Plaintiff and all members of the Classes sustained injuries and damages arising out of and
17 caused by Defendants in violation of laws, regulations that have the force and effect of
18 law, and statutes as alleged herein. Plaintiff has no conflict of interest with the other Class
19 Members and is able to represent the Class Members' interests fairly and adequately.

20 **D. Adequacy of Representation**

21 59. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
22 members of each Class. Counsel who represents Plaintiff is competent and experienced in
23 litigation large employment as well as other class actions. Neither Plaintiff nor his
24 counsel have any conflict with either Class.

25 **E. Superiority of Class Action**

26 60. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient
27 adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Class Members is not
28 practicable, and questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any

1 questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Each member of the Class has
 2 been damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendants' illegal policy and/or
 3 practice of failing to pay all earned wages and provide proper wage statements, Class
 4 action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the
 5 manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system.
 6 Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be construed in the management of
 7 this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action. The disposition of all
 8 claims of the members of the Class in a class action, rather than in individual actions,
 9 benefits the parties and the Court. The interest of the Class Members in controlling the
 10 prosecution of separate claims against Defendants is small when compared with the
 11 efficiency of a class action. The interest of each Class member in controlling the
 12 prosecution of his or her individual claim against Defendants is small when compared
 13 with the efficiency of a class action.

14 **FLSA COLLECTIVE-ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

15 61. In this collective action, Plaintiff seeks to represent all individuals employed
 16 by Defendants who, at any time during the three years preceding the filing of this
 17 Complaint, up to the time of the filing of a motion for certification of a collective action,
 18 participated in one or more of Defendants new-hire training session[s] in California (the
 19 "Collective Action Members"). Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copies
 20 of the FLSA consent form for Plaintiff Zucker.

21 62. Plaintiff is similarly situated with the Collective Action Members in that: (a)
 22 Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members were employed by Defendant; (b) Plaintiff
 23 and the Collective Action Members were not paid their minimum or overtime wages for
 24 all hours worked; (c) Defendant knowingly and willfully violated provisions of the FLSA
 25 by not paying Plaintiff and the Collective Action Members their wages; (d) As a result of
 26 the practice of Defendant of withholding compensation for all hours worked, Plaintiff and
 27 the Collective Action Members have been similarly damaged in that they have not
 28 received timely payment in full of their earned wages, for unpaid work and otherwise.

63. This action is maintainable as an “opt-in” collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) as to claims for liquidated damages, costs and attorneys’ fees under the FLSA. All individuals employed by Defendants who, at any time since three years prior to the filing of this Complaint were issued wages for work performed during a Sunday to Saturday pay period later than Thursday of the next week.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Provide Adequate Pay Stubs In Violation of California Labor Code § 226
(Claim by Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendants)

64. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the paragraphs herein as if fully set forth herein.

65. The Code requires employers to furnish each employee with an itemized statement on a semi-monthly basis or with each paycheck showing the gross wages earned, net wages earned, and all applicable deductions. See Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a).

66. Defendants failed to timely provide Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass Members with wage statements conforming to the requirements of section 226(a) of the California Labor Code. Despite the requirements of the statute, Defendants did not provide accurate information to Plaintiff and/or Wage Statement Subclass Members regarding the matters herein alleged, including accrued and unpaid wages owing for missed rest breaks and meal periods. It is not possible for Plaintiff and/or Wage Statement Subclass Members “from the wage statement alone” to ascertain information required to be provided on the itemized wage statements pursuant to section 226(a). The failure to provide the correct information on these wage statements has caused confusion by making it impossible for Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass Members to determine whether or not they have been paid correctly. In addition, although Defendants were temporary services employers during the time period relevant to this complaint, they failed to comply with the requirements of Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(9) and provide “the rate of pay and the total hours worked for each temporary services assignment.” Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a)(9).

67. Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass Members were injured by Defendants' failure to maintain and provide adequate payroll records, and they are therefore entitled to seek the amounts set forth in Labor Code section 226(e), including reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Pay Minimum Wage or Overtime, Code § 510, 1194 (Claim by Plaintiff and the Class against Defendants)

68. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the paragraphs herein as if fully set forth herein.

69. Within the four years before the filing of this action, Defendants employed Plaintiff and members of the Class.

70. Section 1197 of the Labor Code states:

The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission or by any applicable state or local law, is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lower wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

This section does not change the applicability of local minimum wage laws to any entity.

Labor Code § 1197.

71. Defendants, by failing to pay Plaintiff and Class Members, at least the minimum wage and/or overtime compensation for all of their hours worked, as required by and in violation of sections 510, 1194 and 1197 of the California Labor Code.

72. Plaintiff and Class members are accordingly entitled to the payment of any back wages, liquidated damages, and the payment of liquidated damages and penalties to each employee whose rights were violated for each day that the violation occurred or continued and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

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THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Pay Minimum Wage and/or Overtime,

Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b)

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and Collective Action Members Against Defendants)

73. Plaintiff repleads, realleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the Complaint.

74. Defendants intentionally and improperly failed to pay Plaintiff and Collective Action Members minimum wage compensation to which they are entitled. The FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207 provides, in relevant part:

[N]o employer shall employ any of his employees who in any workweek is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or is employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, for a workweek longer than forty hours unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above specified at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed.

29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1).

75. During their employment with Defendants, Plaintiff and Collective Action Members were not timely or fully paid for all of their time worked, for the benefit of the Defendants and otherwise.

76. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Collective Action Members request payment of minimum wage and/or overtime according to proof, liquidated damages, attorney's fees, and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Continuing Wages, California Labor Code § 203

(Claim by Plaintiff and the Former Employee Subclass and against Defendants)

77. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

78. Section 203 of the Labor Code states that, “[i]f an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Sections 201, 201.3 . . . [or] 202, . . . any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.” Cal. Lab. Code § 203(a). By failing to pay minimum and overtime wages and premium wages owing under b, failing to pay wages for missed meal breaks and/or rest periods, Defendant has willfully failed to pay all wages due and owing to those Former Employee Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendants.

79. Plaintiff and Former Employee Subclass Members are therefore entitled to seek the amounts set forth in Labor Code section 203(e).

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Provide Meal Periods, California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and IWC Wage Order 12

(Claim by Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendants)

80. Plaintiff repleads, realleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the Complaint.

81. At all times herein relevant, sections 226.7 and 512 of the California Labor Code provided that employees must receive meal periods of not less than thirty minutes if an employee works for a period of more than six hours and a second thirty-minute meal period if an employee works for a period more than twelve hours in a workday. Plaintiff and the Class consistently worked more than 6 hour shifts. However, they were required to keep walkie talkies on their persons, turned on and audible at all times, including during their meal breaks and rest periods, in violation of Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc., 2 Cal. 5th 257 (2016).

82. Because Defendants failed to properly provide the proper meal periods, they are liable to Plaintiff and the Class for one hour of additional pay at the regular rate of compensation for each workday that the proper meal periods were not provided,

1 pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7. Plaintiff also requests relief as described below.

2 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 Failure to Provide A Proper Rest Break Policy in Violation of California Labor Code
4 § 226.7 and Wage Order 12.

5 (Claim by Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendants)

6 83. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations
7 contained in this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

8 84. Labor Code Section 226.7 and the relevant Wage Orders require an employer
9 to pay an additional hour of compensation for each rest period the employer fails to provide
10 a compliant rest period. Employees are entitled to a rest period of ten minutes for every four
11 hours worked or major fraction thereof.

12 85. Plaintiff and the Class consistently worked more than 4 hour shifts. However,
13 they were required to keep phones on their persons, turned on and audible at all times,
14 including during their rest breaks. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order
15 12, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one hour of wages
16 per missed rest period, in an amount to be proven at trial.

17 **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

18 Violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.

19 (Claim by Plaintiff and the Class and against Defendants)

20 86. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth
21 herein.

22 87. California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* prohibits acts
23 of unfair competition, including any “unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or
24 practice.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants have
25 engaged in unfair business practices in California by the above-described failure to pay
26 minimum and overtime wages to employees, failure to maintain accurate payroll records,
27 failure to provide adequate paystubs, failure to pay final wages and vacation wages to
28 quitting and/or discharged employees and failure to provide proper rest breaks and meal

periods.

88. Defendants' actions entitle Plaintiff and Class Members to seek the remedies available pursuant to section 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff seeks full restitution of said amounts from Defendants, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all amounts—including interest—withheld, acquired, or converted by Defendants by means of the unfair practices complained of herein. Plaintiff, on behalf of themself and other similarly situated employees, as well as on behalf of the general public, further seek attorney's fees and costs pursuant to sections 218.5 of the California Labor Code and 1021.5 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. In addition, Plaintiff seeks the appointment of a receiver as necessary.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff pray for judgment as follows:

1. That the Court certify the collective action, class and subclasses described in this Complaint.

2. With respect to the first claim for relief, that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class for pay-stub damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit, all according to proof in an amount of at least \$5,000 against Defendants.

3. With respect to the second claim for relief, that the Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class for back wages and penalties to each employee whose rights were violated for each day that the violation occurred or continued, attorney's fees and costs, all according to proof in an amount of at least \$50,000, against Defendants.

4. With respect to the third claim for relief under the FLSA, Plaintiff and Collective Action Members be awarded their unpaid continuing wages, compensation, liquidated damages, and attorneys' fees and costs, according to proof in an amount of not less than \$100,000, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), against Defendants.

5. With respect to the fourth claim for relief, that this Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Former Employee Subclass for payment of the sums owing pursuant to section 203 of the Code, in an amount of no less than \$100,000.

1 6. With respect to the fifth claim for relief, Plaintiff and the Class be awarded
2 an additional hour of pay for each workday, pursuant to the Code.

3 7. With respect to the sixth claim for relief, Plaintiff and the Class be awarded
4 an additional hour of pay for each workday, pursuant to the Code.

5 8. With respect to the seventh claim for relief, that it be adjudged that
6 Defendants' violations of the Code and the FLSA constitute violations of section 17200 *et*
7 *seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code. Accordingly, Plaintiff requests that
8 the Court order Defendant to pay restitution to Members of the Class in the form of the
9 compensation retained by Defendants for the period of time from three years prior to the
10 filing of the original Complaint to date. Plaintiff requests that the Court award Plaintiff
11 their reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in the prosecution of this claim for
12 relief, against Defendants.

13 9. For such further relief as the Court may order, including reasonable
14 attorney's fees, costs of suit, and interest pursuant to sections 218.5 and 218.6 of the
15 California Labor Code, as well as section 1021.5 of the California Code of Civil
16 Procedure.

17 DATED: October 17, 2022

HARRIS & RUBLE

Alan Harris

20 Alan Harris
21 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

22 **REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL**

23 Plaintiff requests a trial by jury as to all claims for relief.

24 DATED: October 17, 2022

HARRIS & RUBLE

Alan Harris

26 Alan Harris
27 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – FLSA Consent Form for Plaintiff